

**Introduced by Senator Gaines**

June 19, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 53—Relative to the Shawn Baker and Joseph “Robert” Jones Memorial Highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 53, as introduced, Gaines. Shawn Baker and Joseph “Robert” Jones Memorial Highways.

This measure would designate 2 specified portions of State Highway Route 96 in Siskiyou County as the Shawn Baker and Joseph “Robert” Jones Memorial Highways, respectively. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Shawn Baker was born on April 4, 1963, and grew
- 2 up in New Mexico and Alaska; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker served his country in the United States
- 4 Navy for five years; and
- 5 WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. Baker and his family moved to
- 6 Siskiyou County and eventually settled in Weed, California; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker enjoyed camping, fishing, traveling,
- 8 riding his quad bike, climbing, playing water sports, working with
- 9 wood, and renovating his home, and could always be found in the
- 10 middle of a project; and
- 11 WHEREAS, On January 1, 2004, Mr. Baker began his career
- 12 with the Department of Transportation as a permanent-intermittent

1 equipment operator in Yreka, California, and then transferred to  
2 the Yreka special projects crew in April 2004; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker was hired as a permanent full-time  
4 equipment operator in November 2004, and then in December  
5 2004, transferred to the Grass Lake maintenance crew; and

6 WHEREAS, Joseph “Robert” Jones was born on April 15, 1973,  
7 in Yreka, California, to Marty Mangrum and Jim Jones; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones attended schools in Yreka and Montague  
9 up until his junior year in high school, when he transferred to South  
10 Fork High School in Humboldt County, from which he graduated  
11 in 1991; and

12 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation hired Mr. Jones  
13 in November 2005 as a temporary employee for the Mount Shasta  
14 maintenance crew; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones became a permanent-intermittent  
16 equipment operator for the Mount Shasta crew in November 2006,  
17 and then transferred to the Yreka crew in December 2006; and

18 WHEREAS, In June 2008, Mr. Jones was hired as a permanent  
19 full-time equipment operator for the Grass Lake special projects  
20 crew, then transferred to the Yreka crew in December 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, In his spare time, Mr. Jones deeply enjoyed his  
22 time as a volunteer firefighter at the Mayten Fire Department; and

23 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2013, a group of eight Caltrans  
24 District 2 employees was performing rock scaling operations to  
25 remove loose material from a rocky hillside on State Route 96 near  
26 Happy Camp in Siskiyou County when a rock slide occurred,  
27 tragically killing Mr. Baker and Mr. Jones, and injuring a third  
28 employee; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker is survived by his wife of 26 years,  
30 Tammie, his daughters, Hilary and Mariah, and his sons, Weston  
31 and Quinton; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones is survived by his wife, of 16 years  
33 Shannon, his stepson, Stephen, his son, Parker, and his daughter,  
34 Michael-La; and

35 WHEREAS, Both men gave their lives working selflessly to  
36 protect motorists on the highway from future rock slides propelling  
37 rocks onto the highway; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
40 portions of State Highway 96 from PM 35.7 to PM 39.5, inclusive,

1 and PM 41.5 to PM 43.5, inclusive, as the Shawn Baker and Joseph  
2 “Robert” Jones Memorial Highways, respectively, to honor these  
3 two selfless employees of the Department of Transportation; and  
4 be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
6 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
7 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this  
8 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
9 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
12 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
13 author for appropriate distribution.